

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /106 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE
-----108011 272142Z /21

P 272022Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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USSALT TWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 27 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

1. GEORGE WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT NAVY
HAS FAILED ON THREE OF FOUR ATTEMPTS TO FLIGHT TEST CRUISE
MISSILE THAT COULD BE FIRED OUT OF SUBMARINES TO HIT
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ENEMY SHIPS. LAST TWO FAILURES OCCURRED TUESDAY OFF
CALIFORNIA'S SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND. DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD
BROWN, WHO WAS WATCHING, SAID FAILURES TOLD HIM "WE NEED
MORE TESTS FOR SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES, AND WE
WILL HAVE MORE. THIS DOESN'T CHANGE MY VIEW AT ALL ABOUT
CRUISE MISSILES, PARTICULARLY AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE."
WILSON SAID PRESIDENT "IS BETTING HEAVILY ON CRUISE MISSILE

TO OFFSET SOVIET BUILDUP IN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WITH BROWN'S SUPPORT, HE OPTED FOR CRUISE MISSILE OVER B-1 BOMBER. ALSO, ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO OPEN UP SOME OF TESTS OF CRUISE MISSILES TO PUBLIC VIEW IN HOPES OF TAKING EDGE OFF CONTENTION THAT GOVERNMENT IS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO COMBAT SOVIET STRATEGIC BUILDUP. TUESDAY'S FAILURES UNDERCUT ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT ON BEHALF OF CRUISE MISSILE, ALTHOUGH SUCH TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES ACCOMPANY ALMOST EVERY NEW WEAPONS PROGRAM." WILSON SAID NAVY OFFICIALS WOULD SAY ONLY THAT CAUSES FOR

FAILURES TUESDAY WERE BEING EXPLORED. BOTH TOMAHAWK MISSILES WERE RECOVERED FROM PACIFIC. BROWN SAID SUB-MARINE CRUISE MISSILE PROGRAM MAY BE DELAYED TO BUILD IN ADDITIONAL TESTING TIME.

2. BALTIMORE SUN PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH REPORTING THAT ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATOR PAUL WARNKE SAID SOVIETS HAVE NOT OBJECTED TO U.S. "MAP" MISSILE BASING STRATEGY. AP REPORTED THAT WARNKE SAID IT HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD FOR YEAR THAT BOTH COUNTRIES COULD DEPLOY MOBILE MISSILES UNDER NEW SALT AGREEMENT THAT WOULD LAST UNTIL 1985. WARNKE, AP SAID, DENIED NEW YORK TIMES REPORT LAST SUNDAY THAT AN OBJECTION HAD BEEN RAISED BY SOVIET NEGOTIATOR VLADIMIR SEMYONOV. TIMES SAID SOVIET OFFICIAL OBJECTED TO U.S. STRATEGY IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH WARNKE
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IN GENEVA. "THERE HAS BEEN NO SOVIET OBJECTION," AP SAID WARNKE STATED. "FOR AT LEAST YEAR IT HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED THAT BOTH SIDES COULD HAVE LAUNCHERS OF MOBILE MISSILES AFTER PROTOCOL PERIOD." AP SAID MOBILE MISSILE DEPLOYMENT IS PROHIBITED IN THREE-YEAR PROTOCOL NOW BEING NEGOTIATED, BUT NOT IN LONGER-TERM TREATY THAT WOULD LIMIT OVER-ALL NUMBERS OF MISSILES AND BOMBERS. AP SAID UNDER MULTIPLE AIM POINT (MAP) SCHEME, HUNDREDS OF MISSILES COULD BE MOVED AMONG THOUSANDS OF EMPTY LAUNCHING SILOS IN RANDOM FASHION, COMPLICATING SOVIET EFFORT TO DESTROY U.S. LAND-BASED MISSILES IN FIRST STRIKE ATTACK. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE189944
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780308-1169
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780713/aaaaakpt.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab25d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1864502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 27 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST
TAGS: PARM, SOPN
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab25d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014